

Serial No.: 09/677,821

A 15. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the midpoint coordinate generating means generates the second and third midpoints based on the coordinates for the first midpoint.--

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**REMARKS**

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by James. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons. Claims 1, 5, 11 and 13 are independent.

**A. CLAIM 1**

Claim 1 recites in pertinent part, "midpoint coordinate generating means for generating coordinates for first, second and third midpoints ...." As a preliminary matter, it is respectfully submitted that James is silent as to a means for generating midpoints, let alone in the specific manner and relationship between midpoints recited in claim 1. Instead, James is directed to drawing a line by first partitioning the line into segments and thereafter creating starting points for line generating pointers P. These starting points, interpreted by the Examiner as midpoints, are created independently of each other and are defined as centers of their own segment drawn by their respective pointers. As such, any incident whereby starting points happen to coincide with midpoints occur only after division of the line, whereas in the present invention such midpoints can be obtained at the beginning. Further, as shown in Figure 2 for example, respective midpoints are not related to each other as recited in claim 1.